

Alternate Entry Procedures

WAC 296-809-600

Summary

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To choose alternate entry procedures for spaces where the only hazard is a hazardous atmosphere

IMPORTANT:

In addition to this section, you also need to meet the requirements in the following sections of this chapter:

- WAC 296-809-200, Identifying and controlling permit-required confined spaces.
- WAC 296-809-300, Permit-required confined space program.
- WAC 296-809-400, Employee training.

You must

Make sure the following conditions are met if using alternate entry procedures

WAC 296-809-60002 600-2

Follow these alternate entry procedures for permit-required confined spaces

WAC 296-809-60004 600-3

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Rule

WAC 296-809-60002

Make sure the following conditions are met if using alternate entry procedures

You must

- Make sure, when using alternate entry procedures, instead of permit entry procedures, that you have monitoring and inspection data that supports the following:
 - That the only hazard of the permit-required confined space is an actual or potentially hazardous atmosphere.
 - That continuous forced air ventilation alone is all that is needed to maintain the permit-required confined space for safe entry.
- Make sure an entry to obtain monitoring and inspection data or to eliminate hazards is performed according to WAC 296-809-500, Permit Entry Procedures.
- Make sure all documentation produced is available to each affected employee and their authorized representative.



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Rule

WAC 296-809-60004

Follow these alternate entry procedures for permit-required confined spaces

You must

- Use the following alternate entry procedures:
 - Eliminate any unsafe conditions before removing an entrance cover.
 - When entrance covers are removed, promptly guard the opening with a railing, temporary cover, or other temporary barrier to prevent accidental falls through the opening and protect entrants from objects falling into the space.
 - Certify that pre-entry measures have been taken (such as safe removal of the cover and having protection needed to gather pre-entry data), with the date, location of the space, and signature of the person certifying.
 - Make the pre-entry certification available before entry to each entrant.
 - Before an employee enters the confined space, test the internal atmosphere with a calibrated, direct-reading instrument for all of the following, in this order:
 - Oxygen content.
 - Flammable gases and vapors.
 - Potential toxic air contaminants.
 - Provide entrants, or their authorized representatives, with an opportunity to observe the pre-entry and periodic testing.
 - Make sure the atmosphere within the space isn't hazardous when entrants are present.

-Continued-

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Rule

WAC 296-809-60004 (Continued)

- Use continuous forced air ventilation, as follows:
 - Wait until the forced air ventilation has removed any hazardous atmosphere before allowing entrants into the space.
 - Direct forced air ventilation toward the immediate areas where employees are, or will be, and continue ventilation until all employees have left the space.
 - Provide the air supply from a clean source and make sure it doesn't increase hazards in the space.
- Test the atmosphere within the space as needed to make sure hazards don't accumulate.
- If a hazardous atmosphere is detected during entry, do all of the following:
 - Evacuate employees from the space immediately.
 - Evaluate the space to determine how the hazardous atmosphere developed.
 - Implement measures to protect employees from the hazardous atmosphere before continuing the entry operation.
 - Verify the space is safe for entry before continuing the entry operation.



Helpful Tool:

Atmospheric Testing of Permit-required Confined Spaces

You can find information on atmospheric testing of permit-required confined spaces in the Resources section of this rule.

